

THE BELL RINGER

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Vietnam War Panels of MBA Faculty, Staff, and Friends Detail Horrors, Heroes



Mr. Gioia and the Hon. George Paine

By Peyton Cooke

My generation has been endlessly fascinated with the Vietnam War. We think of it as the war we lost — a war very separate from World War II or Desert Storm. Those wars were understandable and ordinary: heroes, ground battles between organized

forces, clearly defined strategies, perfectly obvious goals. These two wars seem to have predecessors throughout history. Vietnam does not. Mr. Anderson Gaither commented, "It was surreal." We fought for goals which were defined only vaguely: President Johnson attributed our entrance into the war to "promises to keep" to the South Vietnamese nation and gave the effort moral weight by declaring it was a war to halt Communism — very similar, in many ways, to the Korean War

of the previous decade. In both cases, most Americans knew exceptionally little about the enemy we faced; the Hon. George Paine expressed a common sentiment: "I didn't even know where Vietnam was."

Our government trained soldiers individually, dropped them into units, among men whom they had never before known; then pulled them out after



Students in the Senior Seminar listen to Mr. Coverstone's take on the Sixties, as Dr. Fuller, who with Dr. Griffith is organizing the seminar, looks on

only a year of service. We did not fight battles but engaged in roving missions, a sort of Americanized guerilla warfare.

We tend to think of these realities as the sum of the Vietnam War: a war without point, a war without objective. The great majority know Vietnam directly only from films such as *Apocalypse Now* — the smell of napalm in the morning — and *Full Metal Jacket* — the rifle as your best friend, your lover; we tend to think of the war in terms of unmitigated disaster, our impressions propelled forward by the steady stream of Vietnam documentaries and movies that depict the war as nothing less than hellish.

But Vietnam, like all wars, was a war of individuals — as much as the stories of torture and surrealism might overwhelm all other perspectives.

We seniors at MBA confronted this fact at a Vietnam symposium open to the entire class; we in the Senior Seminar have since experienced two more such events.

A panel of six men — five MBA alumni and MBA's Director of Finance, Mr. Sam Jackson — appeared in the Ingram lecture hall to speak on their experiences in the war. Very few Seniors wanted to come, but all who came were glad they did: these panelists of-

Continued on page 4

Cultural Awareness Month, Public Debates, and Service Activities Enrich Winter Lull

By Andy Gray

As the last vestiges of winter disappear and spring approaches, MBA continues its attempts to serve the Nashville community and broaden its cultural horizons on campus.

Recently Mr. Coverstone, Mrs. Tilley, and Mrs. Simmons have organized the project known as Cultural Awareness Month, a multifaceted undertaking to take place during March. The goal of the project is to expand student's vision of MBA to more than that of a possibly closed-minded community (some would say, a monolithic WASP community.) In maintaining a traditional education, the curriculum at MBA tends to be focused on Western culture. By implementing Cultural Awareness Month, its creators hope to



Senior Robert Farringer discusses why he believes gun control is not the answer to preventing crime while Trey Tally (foreground) thinks about his rebuttal

increase the scope of the traditional curriculum and make students aware of their own cultural history.

The first part of the project is a series of assembly speakers (beginning with Dr. Carol Etherington of Doctors Without Borders) who have brought a message of cultural diversity to MBA.

The other assemblies include a discussion by Mr. Brian Popovich on the salad that is America and his own cultural background, a video presentation by Mr. Russell, and a choral presentation featuring Mr. Kelly.

The eighth grade Cultural Geography classes are working on posters highlighting other nations.

A number of displays will be held in the Davis Building showcasing artifacts donated to the school by

several MBA families and faculty members. The artifacts exhibit elements of the cultural history of the families from such countries such as Romania, India, Iran, Spain, Italy, Korea, South Africa, Scotland, Germany,

Continued on page 2

Table of Contents

News	2-4
Opinions	5
Sports	6-9
Entertainment ..	10-12

Enriching the Winter Lull



Robert Winnock speaks. Josh Baker' views on gun control.

Crima and England.

Finally, several of the public debates recurring periodically in the Quadrangle involve debates in cultural issues. These debates will present the issues of the 200,000 Immigration Cap, English Only Education, and Jewish Immigration from Russia.

To round out the cultural experience, the cafeteria plans to serve international foods.

By now most of the student body has been able to witness, in part or whole, one of the public debates. Organized by Mr. Alan Caversore, three have already trans-

pired.

The third debate titled the Quad with energy as Free Talkers tried to fend off Robert Faringer and Jamie Carroll.



Peyton Cooke speaks. Josh Baker' views on gun control.

and their attacks against gun control. They did his best despite a heavily stacked crowd of seniors against gun control.

Future topics include the Democratic Primary, the Republican Primary, and prayer in public schools.

Lately the service club has offered its traditional variety of services. Robert Winnock and a number of assistants have been giving emotional aid to the residents of the Belmont Nursing Home. The soup kitchen, led by Commander Carr, has continued to feed the hungry on the first Saturday of each month with plentiful servings of glazed

ham, biscuits, green beans, and mashed potatoes. At the local social service, Our Kids, Tison Bure, Ried Parfisch, Ryan Maran, myself, and several others have been providing assistance. The service club officers are currently organizing a few upcoming projects, such as Pulse Day and two marathon-related activities. Preliminary work already is taking place for the next Habitat for Humanity house, which will be built in August of the coming summer.



Mr. Givens addresses Quentin White of the 100 Black Men. Mr. White addressed the student body about Black History Month.

spiced and sin have yet to take place. In the first of these, the team of David McNamee, Vanni Webb, and Paul Johnson faced off against Chase Ireland and Brad Rietick in a debate over the execution of a death row inmate by the electric chair.

In the second, part of which took place in assembly, Josh Rosenblatt and Jonathan Moss debated the issue of Affirmative Action in college admis-

Eton's Finest Relish Time on the Hill

By the Bell Ringer Staff

With the arrival of the three exchange students from Eton College in England, the public curiosity here at Eton has been aroused. Although generally considered to be the way they would, a few students did in fact have some genuine interest in the exchangeers. Therefore, we arranged an interview with them.

First to arrive was Alan Bates. At first appearance he seems like any one of us, except maybe a little paler. Then, the first thing you actually notice about him is his accent. It's something how a British accent can make someone sound so sophisticated and intelligent. Only one individual, picked from the hundreds, then a British accent on him, and he instantly turns into a Charles Dickens character - respectable isn't it? Soon after they were the second and last interview, Kaley Wright. It was about two who answered most of our questions, the two we wanted to talk up in 1990.

BB: Ringers: How are you doing MRS?

MRS: I'm doing a lot, it's different than here. I'm happy, it's pretty good.

BB: Speaking of home, is MRS still at home?

MRS: Well Eton is a boarding school, so going to a daily school is really different. It also means a lot more school here with the same class.

CW: Yeah, the classes are a lot more relaxed than Eton with the teachers and everything. The lessons are much more relaxed.

BB: How different are the classes here compared to in Eton, do they vary?

MRS: Well I haven't taken many of the subjects for about two years and I don't want to say that I'm not working, I'd have to say they're about the same.

BB: What sports do you play, when have you back home?

MRS: I actually don't play any sports here except for I've only been here a little while but back home I play rugby.

CW: I play the same sports as you.

BB: How are you doing Nashville so far?

MRS: Well, I actually had time to see some of it but the Producers were cool. We really like how the fans got so excited but in the live ones, maybe?

BB: How are you doing Nashville so far?

MRS: Well, I actually had time to see some of it but the Producers were cool. We really like how the fans got so excited but in the live ones, maybe?

CW: Yeah, the Producers were really cool. We really liked the audience, mostly female.

BB: Is this your first time in the United States?

MRS: Well, not really, I went to Disneyland once.

CW: And I stayed in Cleveland for some time, so I've been here before.

BB: Okay? (Smiling) What was your favorite ride?

MRS: What's that one with the big ball, it's called a roller coaster.

CW: Space Mountain, yeah, that one was great.

MRS: Yeah that's it, Space Mountain, definitely cool.

BB: Well, we're struggling here for questions so is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

MRS: Actually, yes. The parties here are great. We arrived at 5:30 and by 6:00 we were already at a wrestling party.

CW: Yeah it was really, really different from the parties at home with the drinking and everything.

MRS: Yeah, at home the cops don't do anything but here they called the police four times. Oh yeah, and bowling is really cool.

CW: Oh yeah, bowling is great.

We hope that interview has given you a little insight into the lives of the exchange students. Of course the views and opinions of these students are not necessarily shared by the Bell Ringer, just making public knowledge.

Don't forget to register for the second annual Youth PULSE Day by March 22

Bruce Dobie: A Unique View on Journalism

By Michael Pass

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to sit down with Bruce Dobie, the editor of *the Nashville Scene*, and ask him a few questions. (You may remember that he spoke at the February 6 assembly about politics and the current presidential campaign.)

At a relatively young age, Mr. Dobie bought an existing advertising magazine and within a short period of time, successfully turned it into an excellent paper that provides quality reporting on important issues that often go overlooked by *The Tennessean*. Mr. Dobie and his staff concentrate on, but are not limited to, mainstream news, and their writing appeals to a generally intellectual and educated readership.

Bruce and *The Nashville Scene* do a great service for the Nashville community and pride themselves in their high standards of writing and reporting.

Bell Ringer: Where are you originally from and how did you come to Nashville?

Bruce Dobie: I'm from Lafayette, Louisiana, and had gone to the University of the South and grew to love Tennessee while going there.

After graduating with a degree in English, I moved to New York City and went to graduate school at Columbia University and got my masters in Journalism there.

I wanted to work for a newspaper, so I got in my car in New York and drove south stopping in cities all along the way. When I got to Nashville, I was offered a job at the *Nashville Banner*, so I took it.

BR: What sort of high school did you go to growing up?

BD: I went to a small boarding school in Austin, Texas. It was a great school with a great faculty and I just loved it.

BR: Did you go straight from college to journalism, or did you do any other types of jobs before graduate school and before working for the *Nashville Banner*?

BD: Well after I got out of Sewanee (The University of the South) there was a period of time that I moved back to Louisiana and worked in the oil business which my family had been in for a couple of generations. Well, I wasn't that fond of the oil business, but on the side, I free-lanced for a local newspaper in Lafayette, LA.

It took me a while to realize that I really ought to be doing what I was having fun doing as opposed to doing what was making sense financially or

what my family had been involved in. At some point the light clicked on, and I knew I that should be in newspapers full time, so that's when I moved to New York.

BR: Tell me about the beginnings of the *Nashville Scene*.

BD: I went to work for the *Banner* in 1983 and in 1989 Albie Delfavero, a near graduate of MBA (He was unfortunately dismissed his senior year), and I bought an existing advertising newspaper. It was his startup and he really brought me on to be the editor and I got an ownership interest as well. We turned this existing shopper (a newspaper that consists of more than 75% advertisements) into what is known as an alternative newsweekly. It was a near startup in that we had to really gut the publication and overhaul the advertising base.

BR: What do you see as the place of the *Scene* in the Nashville community?

BD: It's an unusual breed of newspaper because so many of these alternative newsweeklies exist on the fringes of the city. They cover the neglected parts of the communities, the alternative crowds, and the segments of the population that are not mainstream. This paper is much more mainstream in the sense that we cover issues and events that the vast majority of the city cares about. So although we're called an alternative newspaper, in so many ways we are a product that is much more germane to the sensibilities of the city than so many other alternative newspapers around the country. In a lot of ways we are just a second newspaper in town. *The Tennessean* reports the 'who, what, when, and where' and we follow behind them and spend a great deal of time talking about the 'why'. We provide a lot of analysis, introspection, and reflection about the city and the events that take place here.

BR: The *Scene* is viewed as a paper that tackles the tough issues and isn't afraid to take on the "establishment". Do you see this as the most important aspect of the paper?

BD: Yes, definitely one of them. I really think it's important for newspapers to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. In so many ways that was the mission of newspapers a couple of decades ago. Today newspapers have become much more complacent, less aggressive, and much less impetuous to take on the power structure. That is not a fear here, because we've got nothing to lose.

BR: So where does the *Scene* draw the

line between sensationalism and hard-nosed investigative reporting?

BD: That's a great point. So much of contemporary journalism is making a name for itself by saying bad words, calling people names, and being sensational strictly for the purpose of being sensational. When you see this, it almost makes you ashamed of being a journalist. Now, there is a right way

There are no wars and there is no Civil Rights Movement, so the result is journalists floundering on something to report on.

to be controversial, and that is to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted. We had a story this week about a defensive back for the Titans who plead guilty to assault back in July. The reason we put it on the cover was not to be sensational but to raise a point about the way the police pursued him having committed this crime. What the police did was wrong and they let him get by with a whole lot of stuff. I hope that the way we go about attracting readers is by responsibly reporting events and interpreting the events of the city, not by calling people names. There is an old saying 'attack the

message and not the messenger.' I don't think that we need to be personal in this paper.

BR: Do you think that today journalists are more highly trained and educated than in the past?

BD: Journalists are better prepared and they have better training, but the one thing they may lack is a sensitivity to what normal ordinary folks are thinking and what they are up to. They are better educated, but they have a more bourgeois approach to life than yesterday's journalist. Yesterday's journalist often times came from East Nashville, had a pint of whisky in his pocket, and may not have gone to college but knew what was happening on the street level. There is this whole thing today about celebrity reporting. There are no wars and there is no Civil Rights Movement, so the result is journalists floundering on something to report on. Therefore they have built this whole celebrity class of people that they enjoy writing about.

BR: Do you believe that large paper chains have contributed to the decline in newspaper quality?

BD: There is no doubt that they really have. I don't know how else to explain why the *Tennessean* is so lacking in good reporting. Where they really missed the boat is in the big projects going on in Nashville, which leaves us with a whole lot of big stories to sink our teeth into. I'm glad they're so weak.



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Vietnam Panels Detail Horrors, Heroes

ferred a perspective quite different from the one usually heard, Judge Paine reflecting that the war had endowed his life with purpose, given him discipline and drive; the others on the panel echoed the sentiment, one panelist even commenting that he had joined the army expressly for that purpose.

Mr. Jackson, an army medic, alone appeared reticent to relate his experiences, often stumbling over his words; he seemed to be filtering the details he would relate to us. However he went on at great length about the atmosphere of the war — the constant noise: everyone had a cassette player, everyone played it at full volume, making the air a soup of half-heard songs. Even during combat, the noise continued. Judge Paine, who had been an officer, agreed, adding that he would divide the typical group of American soldiers into two groups: those who smoked marijuana and those who drank. He preferred the marijuana smokers, he admitted, preferred dealing with them; they were more docile, more easy to control. Those who drank tended to perpetuate the violence we so much associate with Vietnam.

Judge Paine qualified this remark, however: he believed the average American soldier to be excellent in both character and training. The other panelists were unanimous in agreement. Many of them further agreed that Vietnam had perhaps been beneficial for America as a whole, the war having given us a sense of our limitations and letting us know what tactics we must use to win a war. The panel agreed we had won Tet and stopped Communism. None in the audience expected such an observation.

The panel soon fell to current events, shied away from the war 20 years ago — once again nearly unanimous in its conclusions: today's military tactics are stupid and gutless. Mr. Sam Bartholomew, who had recently retired from a high post at West Point, believed the army to be in its worst state of readiness since the 1920's. He and another panelist, Mr. Tom Beasley, had recently eaten lunch with America's youngest ever 3-star general, a man of infinite abilities who had retired, purely disgusted with today's military policies: "This young man had dreamed all his life of serving his country, and now he felt unable to."

All of the panelists agreed on one additional point: although all were glad to have fought in the war, all would take

any means necessary, any means legal or illegal, to prevent his son from going.

Mr. Diem Huang, however, a former South Vietnamese army officer, presented quite a different range of opinions. A small man whose command of English is somewhat limited, he spoke haltingly and movingly to the Senior Seminar. He spoke of his capture and torture at the hands of the North Vietnamese army — how he had once seen hundreds of men buried by the Communists, whom he called "murderers."

Mr. Huang felt no need morally to equivocate over the war. In his view, the war was a battle for freedom against oppression, humanity against butchery, and Capitalism against Communism; he gave no credit to the other motives and hidden dealings often associated with our entrance into the war; and he bore no complaint with our conduct in the war, except that we did not do enough. Unlike many historians, he did not believe the war between North and South Vietnam to be simply a civil war; as he said, "This war was a war against Communism... against evil... nothing else."

And, unlike our stereotypical view of the South Vietnamese soldier — unwilling to fight, tacitly supporting the North, secretly wanting the country to be reunited — he evinced more passion for the American cause than many of our own soldiers, even giving praise to the South Vietnamese President Diem, whom he called "a good man"; most American observers describe Diem as a pathetically corrupt and inept tyrant.

Mr. Huang seemed nervous, however, often letting his hands — one of which appeared to have two broken fingers — linger on the table, and repeatedly rising up, only to sit down again.

His voice did not waver except in anger toward the victors of the war.

He related his post-war experience: after the war's end, he hid out in the city of Huay, which witnessed some of the war's most savage fighting, only to be arrested in a North Vietnamese purge of the city after its eventual fall. He remained in prison for more than twelve years — a condition he describes as "absolute hell" — until the Communist government set him free in the mid-1980's and allowed him to come to America.

He refuses to go back to Vietnam as long as the Communists remain in power. Mr. Huang claims not to miss his homeland at all. In his mind, Com-

munist has permanently razed his homeland, ruined it beyond almost any measure.

The third group of panelists, which also appeared exclusively to the Senior Seminar, failed to demonstrate similar passion for the American cause. Mr. Julian Jones especially seemed very reticent to speak of his experience, seeming not to want to dredge through his memories.

The other panelists quickly accorded. Mr. Anderson Gaither: "You know, we were raised by World War II people... Going to war was just something you did. There was no question."

Mr. Sammy Dismang, an MBA plant worker, who experienced some of the war's most gruesome fighting, further commented that the war taught you to live for today; he addressed those assembled directly: "Young people," he said, "never waste a single day of your life." The other panelists nodded in agreement.

When asked of their impressions of Vietnam, they panel again stood in agreement. They greatly admired the bravery of the North Vietnamese soldier but sensed that those of the South did not want to fight, that, for them, this was simply another war — if not simply another step on the path to unification. "War was just a part of life for them," Mr. Jackson added, "There was nothing special about it." The cultural gap was omnipresent: Mr. Jackson recalled treating a South Vietnamese infantryman, lingering near death, when his mother burst into the operating tent, demanding that a man Mr. Jackson describes as a "witch doctor" see her son and be allowed to heal him; the doctors refused; the mother took her son in her arms and left. All on the panel had experienced a culture gap to some degree, Mr. Gaither recalling how the Vietnamese had been amazed by air conditioning.

The panel quickly fell to disagreement, however, on the effects of the war. Mr. Gaither perceived the war as wholly negative, asserting that we involved ourselves in a civil war backed by drug cartels, did not fight the war to win, and experienced exclusively dilatory results from it; he related a personal experience in which, flying home from San Francisco after his tour of duty, a group of protesters at O'Hare airport noticed his uniform and trailed him around the airport, slinging insults at him.

He further bemoaned the cultural effects, noting that MBA had dropped

the writings of Caesar from the Latin curriculum after the war; after all, Caesar was a "militarist."

Mr. Jones disagreed; he believed the effects of the war to be generally negative.

Mr. Jackson noted some good in Vietnam; he asserted that we had fought against an expanding Communist empire; he pointed out that, after Vietnam, not a single other Asian nation had atrophied to Communism. He identified another effect of the war: desensitization to violence; according to the theory, the over-arching media coverage of the war exposed the American public to violence and, therefore, made it seem more of an every-day occurrence.

Mr. Gaither strongly disagreed; in his view, Vietnam had heightened our sensitivity to violence, as evinced by the dropping of Caesar; he believed the media coverage had horrified the nation, made violence seem the more reprehensible.

Certainly we most associate his views with Vietnam: the disillusionment, the sense of no purpose, the great bitterness toward the war and those who led it. Movies, novels, documentaries have painted this view all around us.

No other war has so fascinated our generation. We have all smelled "napalm in the morning." We have all learned to love our rifle as our lover — our best friend. Francis Ford Coppola always claimed his movie was Vietnam, the war unadulterated and without embellishment. Even without evidence, we know this to be false.

Vietnam has so fascinated America that we have built up our own mythology for it. Like all mythologies, it contains the essence but not the truth.

These myths no longer stands alone in our minds. For some, the war was certainly more terrible and surreal than can be related — but views like those of the Hon. George Paine and of Mr. Huang exist alongside those with which we are familiar. One could still find honor in Vietnam. Like World War II, it could still give some lives purpose, a sense of structure and balance. Other lives ended when they saw "death coming over that hill." We know that now: that, for every perception of the war, individuals exist to contradict it.

Gimme Some Candy

By Mr. Robert Pruitt

Gimme some candy! Gimme some damn candy!

Adam Sandler, *SNL*, October 1994



The obesity of American youth is a shame.
Nathan Pritikin, author, *The Pritikin Diet*, 1997

It's a travesty!

Anonymous MBA senior,
referring to the candy caper, 2000

Candy disappeared from the MBA cafeteria in January of 2000, as the new semester began the new millennium. No more Hershey Bars, Shock Tarts, or Dove Bars. No more Snickers. Dark Chocolate Milky Ways, and no more *that feeling* from the York Peppermint Patties.

Is this a good thing, or a bad thing? I've certainly seen swimmers make a meal of two bags of chips, three candy bars, and a coke. That can't be good for you. On the other hand, I've had kids fall asleep in afternoon classes as they succumb to post-lunch hypoglycemia.

No one can doubt that a piece of fruit, carton of juice, or even a long-lost soft bagel are much better for you than a giant Caramello. But what are kids going to *really* eat instead? I'm not sure that I know. And now it turns out that chocolate is chock full of anti-oxidants. Maybe better for you than those beets and brussel sprouts. It sure tastes better.

Even though Coach Corzine is gone, the track staff has gotten through all-day track meets for lo these many years on a high sugar, high chocolate, high caffeine diet.

I'm not so worried about Mr. Russell, but how is General Callen going to be able to deal with Morgan Miller without the proper amount of sugar-supported savoir faire?



Given my own scientific bent, I'd like to know several things. How much candy were we selling? Who was buying it? What are they buying instead? What would they rather have in lieu of the hard candy scene?

Certainly there are plenty of items in the cafeteria that would appall a proper nutritionist. The pizza, faux ice cream, and Frito Pie are scary-full of fat.

Do we want MBA students eating healthy, eating lean, or just eating? Let's do some research. Come on, Bell Ringer, student council, class officers, and other concerned students.

All you've got to lose is your M&M's.

From the Main Office in the Ball Building Top Ten Predictions for MBA in the Next Millennium

By Johnny Sisk

10. New entrance to renovated gym will include breathtaking constellation room, depicting the starry night coaching legend Johnny Bennett was born
9. In the year 2017, extra day is added to school week in order to compensate for informative but unpopular 6 1/2 hour assembly.
8. In 2200, after school's last existing tree is chopped down, ensuing campus oxygen shortage forces students to purchase protective gas masks with pricey registration fee
7. More beautifully crafted weather vanes
6. More deceptively crafted tuition fees
5. In 2340, after corrupting thousands of freshmen, Dr. Crowell finally retires from the profession he loves so much
4. Did I mention the beautifully crafted weather vanes
3. In 2037, after claiming an end to its expansion plans, the administration decides to invade Poland
2. With constant emphasis on diversifying the school, by 2250, mathematics is forever banished from MBA's rotting curriculum and replaced with Ebonics AP
1. Extra! Extra! Bell Ringer sucks in any millennium

THE BELL RINGER

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Wrestlers Deliver for Coach Simpson

By Phillip Simpson



Coach Simpson gets into the action

The MBA wrestling team was unsure of its capabilities for this season. Many young and inexperienced wrestlers would have to fill the loss of six seniors from last year's squad. That was just the start of the problems the wrestling team would encounter this year. The team also lost a pair of wrestlers to torn ACL's, senior Steven Maggart occurring in the football season and junior Chris Henson's in the first match of the season. Many of juniors from last year were also missing, unable to wrestle for personal reasons.

This lack of experience and depth showed in the beginning of the year as the wrestling team placed third in the Hendersonville tournament. However, the Big Red wrestling team continued to work hard in practice and two weeks later defeated Grissom High School, a powerhouse defending state champion team from Alabama, for the first time



Frank Herron goes for two

in the history of the MBA wrestling. This victory gave the team the confidence and drive to continue on with the dedication and determination. Following this win, the squad stumbled through

the McCallie Tournament. This, however, did not deter the dreams and goals of the team but rather gave the motivation and will to survive the dreadful Christmas practices. These practices are always a turning point for the team.

These were followed by a strong showing in the Father Ryan Tournament. Good performances continued at the Brentwood Academy dual meet where the team stomped the "bald eagles."

Things took a turn for the worse, however, after a disappointing loss to Father Ryan. The squad had to decide how it wanted to finish out the rest of the season. It would have been easy for the team to give up, but instead the wrestlers proved their inner toughness. This moment was truly a character check for the team. The squad rededicated itself to the task at hand, deciding to practice even harder and work toward the goal of winning state. Runs in the ice cold mornings at around 6:50 a.m., while most people were still sleeping



Logan Hughes scores a takedown

in their nice warm cozy beds, were just one part of the increased regiment.

Unfortunately, the team did not immediately show any marked improvement. The squad had a mediocre performance at the CBHS Invitational and suffered another disappointing loss to Father Ryan. Wrestlers wondered if their hard work would ever pay-off.

It finally showed as the squad upset fifth-ranked McCallie in the quarter-finals of the state duals. The team wrestled defending state champion Baylor in the semi-finals. The heart and effort given just wasn't enough for MBA to slip past Baylor. The team came back, however, and wrestled two matches, beating Harding Academy but losing to McCallie to finish fourth behind Father Ryan, Baylor, and McCallie. Wrestlers were disheartened at having lost to a team they had beaten the day be-

fore. This was a bad ending to a good tournament.

The bitter taste of defeat once again pushed the Big Red on to practice harder for the state individuals. This was what the wrestling team had been practicing all year for, the last and final tournament. The wrestlers walked in with their heads held high. Their pride was left intact, once again upsetting McCallie and giving Baylor a run for its money. The team finished in third place ahead of McCallie after trailing them most of the tournament.

State placers were sixth place, juniors Nathan Burkhalter and Andrew Coulton; fifth place, senior Andy McDermott and junior Cal Alexander; fourth place, freshman Frank Herron and senior Dominique Smith; third place, sophomore Will Howorth and junior Logan Hughes; and second

place, junior Matthew Macintosh. Brothers sophomore Patrick Simpson and myself, junior Phillip Simpson, both won individual state championships. Sophomore Heath Edwards and junior Hunter Houston also contributed a great deal to the team in the state tournament.

This year's MBA Big Red wrestling team not only earned a strong third place finish in the state but also showed a lot of character by not giving up after many set-backs.

Someone once said, "It's not whether you accomplished your goal, but how you accomplished your goal that's important." This year's wrestling team thanks the coaches for believing in them and for all the fans who supported the squad through the long tough journey.

The Long Journey to the State Matches

By Jamie Ranson

The Montgomery Bell Academy varsity wrestling team has fought its way through a great season to a record of 16-4 going into the state individual tournament.

As well as handily defeating Brentwood Academy 52-23, Kenwood 40-28, and McCallie 33-28, the team has placed second at the Region Duals, third at the Hendersonville and Christian Brothers Invitationals, and fourth at the Father Ryan Invitational.

MBA was ranked sixth in Tennessee and fourth overall in Division II, behind Father Ryan, Baylor, and McCallie. They also defeated reigning Alabama State Champions Grissom High School by a score of 30-29. Re-



Jameson Norton acts gentlemanly before he beats the crap out of his opponent

turning from placing third in Tennessee last year and as a state runner-up the year before, the Big Red looked to place very high at Father Ryan. The MBA Big Red is coached by Messrs.

Frank Simpson, Luther Killian, Chris Spiegel, Jay Jenkins, and Ed McBride.

The MBA team was a very young team this year, largely comprised of sophomores and juniors. However, the starting seniors Dominick Smith (189 lbs.), Andy McDermott (152), and Chris Camp (215) provide key leadership. Camp, co-captain of the team this season, was a champion at the Father Ryan Invitational and placed fifth at the McCallie Invitational. Sophomore Will Howorth (119) and juniors Cal

Alexander (171), Logan Hughes (135), Hunter Houston (140), Matthew McIn-

Continued on page 7

Splish Splash

by Will Choppin

This year, one might say that the MHA swim team started with a bang and a splash. The team suffered the loss of Jonathan Brand, Peter Choi, and Adrian Cameron, who graduated last May.

However, the team can be listed for two accomplishments.

First, the team did win against

support was Bruce Howard's mother, who came not only to the meets but also to the practices to urge us on.

The highlights of the Region meet included the 200 Metley Relay (James Williams, Cooper Moore, Adam Davis, and Chris Kallian) finishing first, and Chris Kallian doing at Ryan's Assistant Division in the back-



Senior Swimmers telephoning from back left: David McDowell, Robert Jantzen, Brandon Jones, Greg Nixson, Chris Kallian, Jay Webb, Jeff Bunn, David Pratt, and Andrew Foyce.

schools such as B.A. BHS, and Farrington. And second, the team placed first in the Region Meet, beating out several other teams by 40 points.

There may have not been the most vibrant attendance at meets, but there are some worthy athletes who need to be noticed. The team's biggest

stroke, then placing first in that competitive event.

In the state meet, the Big Red swimmers placed a disappointing seventh. But Kallian won both the 100 and 200 IM and qualified to both those events for the Olympic Trials.

Wrestling Team's Road

look (189), and John Virgi (145) in (combined) and placed in many tournaments. Other starters for this season include David Edwards (130), Andrew Crohn (125), and Nathan Burkholder (125).

The Big Red Wrestlers also recorded impressively this season, competing in 8-1 record, winning the MHA Dual and Christian Brothers Invitational, and placing as a regional runner-up. Key Wrestlers included carry-over Patrick Hayton (112) as well as Mike Lottrell (160), Blake Goodman (171), Carson Kimball (190), and Alex Hall (125).

Of course, one cannot mention MHA wrestling without bringing up the legendary Simpson Brothers, Phillip (125) and Patrick (163), both of whom have been featured in many newspaper articles and as Student Athletes of the Week on the Governor's high school sports drive. Patrick won last year's state runner-up, champion at the Hendersonville, Father Ryan, and Christian Brothers Invitational, and runner-up at the McCallie Invitational. Phillip, a two-time All-American, re-

turned runner-up and state champion, and co-captain of the team this season. won all of the above tournaments, was named Most Outstanding Wrestler at the Hendersonville Invitational, Most Valuable Wrestler at the Father Ryan and Christian Brothers Invitational, and first Place Match at the McCallie Invitational.

With all this going for them, the Big Red appeared more than ready to show up at Ryan and give everything they have to finish the season strong. MHA wrestler John Virgi returned up the season as follows: "For such a young team, everybody has stepped the level in the practice room up a notch, which has added greatly to our success. Chris, Andy, and Demetrius have provided great leadership. We had some early season mix-ups, but we overcame those and went on to win. And the State Duals (where MHA placed fourth) were nothing more than a disappointing fluke."

Although the team did not win the state championship, it must be proud for its effort and success.

Nashville's Teams Tennessee Titans: A Team of Destiny

By Michael Pass

Can you pretend to be a Titan? What a great season for the Titans, and what a great time these last few months have been for their supporters. When you talk about a year of heart, and a team that put forth a lot of heart, you have to talk about the Tennessee Titans. When you talk about guys who play for the love of the game and not the money, you talk about guys like Blaine Bishop and Vince Matthews. Guys like Eddie Peterson and Jason Keadle are really great players, who put out in the spirit of their opponents. When you talk about a guy who fights until the end, plays through pain, and someone who is a really experienced, you talk about Steve McNair.

The Titans begin this season as a joke. They were the team with the funny new uniforms in a stadium team that only liked college ball. By the end of the year they become the team in the Super Bowl with good-looking en-

emies, making their home a 24-hour professional football town. A team of destiny? They lost the Big Game, but there is no doubt in my mind that they were the best team in the AFC and the NFC. They lost the game, but they won the second half and their people. Without Blaine Bishop, Vince Matthews, and Marcus Robertson, these key players, they took the game down to the last yard, the yard that separated a great team from a team of destiny in the middle of many. Take to be positive and think that it is good we didn't win it all our first season. If they had won that, then every year we didn't win the Super Bowl, there would be a huge let down. This thought process somewhat eases the pain of defeat. The next few months are going to be long for the Titans, and they are not going to be happy until they are back, playing in the Ring in Tampa. The Titans lost the Super Bowl, I still think they are a team of destiny.

Nashville Predators: A Long Way to Go

By Zac Hood

The only thing one can ask of a team is to try his best. This year, the Nashville Predators have tried their

best, the draft order for the next year. They aren't going to play any game for the Stanley Cup and they had to get focused on next year. While the



players have escaped, the chance for obtaining the Stanley Cup is still a long way to go. The Predators' organization has arrived. Take note of the players who will be called up during the final games.

They have put a quality team on the ice and performed to the best of their ability while creating some excitement for the fans. This year is all about getting experience. The wins will come later. The only real reason the Predators must finish the season is to de-

velop the team of destiny in Nashville. If you want a winning team, go up on the Titans' leadership for now but remember to keep back on the Predators when they make their championship run in a few years.

On to State: Basketball Wins Region

By Sumeet Vaikunth

The 1999-2000 MBA varsity basketball team has had another rollercoaster season. The season started with a trip to Sparta to face two-time defending Class AAA state champion White County. The Big Red

led early but, as the game progressed, found themselves trying to erase a constant deficit. With Dan Banko fouling out after playing a total of a minute, White County controlled the game and defeated MBA by six for the second straight year. The Big Red came back from the loss, though, beating Whites Creek and USN with solid pressure defense. Injuries to Barton Simmons and Moses Osemwegie, the team's best two players, prevented the team from giving a good effort in their



Steve Ingram strokes the J

with a Steve Ingram 3-pointer before facing the #1 ranked team in Tennessee and their junior All-American, Ernest Shelton. The team came out flat

and unassertive, and White Station cruised to a victory and the tournament championship while MBA had to settle for the consolation game. In a game that went to overtime, the Big Red, led by the defensive effort of Steve Ingram, won by three to win third place. With confidence from the good showing in Memphis, the basketball team won six more games

in a row, highlighted by division wins against BA and at BGA. But at the end of exam week in a highly anticipated game at rival Father Ryan, the Big Red had their most embarrassing game in two years as they were totally out-hustled and outplayed by a more de-

emy. With Carlton Stewart already not playing due to injury, the Big Red were also without the services of Barton Simmons, Moses Osemwegie, and

Jonas

Rodriguez.

In a game

that ex-

pected a

good

match-up

between

the two

starting

centers,

Dan Banko

and MBA

were hu-

miliated.

In contrast

to their

previous

match-up

in which

both play-

ers held

their own,

David

Harrison

led the

Eagles

with a



Jonas Rodriguez takes it to the hole

triple-double of 25 points, 11 rebounds, and an astounding 10 blocks. The Big Red lost 51-36 after scoring just 12 points in the first half. The BA game was the last straw for the Big Red. They came out with rejuvenation in practice and it showed with wins against Waverly and McCallie. The way in which they played hard against McCallie must be kept up and even improved on if the team hopes to cap-

ture the state title.

The Region tournament starts February 21st at MBA. The top three teams from the Middle Region advanced to the Sectionals, and the winners at the Sectionals go to the State Tournament.

After obliterating Benton Hall, 94-30, few doubted the Big Red's offensive output. In the semifinal game against USN, no one expected the Big Red to score that many points again in the manner in which they did. After getting ahead of the Tigers by 18 with 3:55 to go, USN proceeded to foul the daylight out of the Big Red, as MBA spent the next hour making trips to the free throw line.

At one point, USN cut the lead to ten, and after a MBA miss, they could have cut the lead to single digits with a little under two minutes to go, but they turned the ball over on an errant pass. USN never got closer than 10 again. After this game, the rest of the region had no chance, as Father Ryan, Brentwood Academy, and BGA fell by the wayside.

Memphis University School was ranked #1 in Division II until the Big Red knocked off the owls in Memphis.

The state tournament continues during Spring Break at MTSU.

Barton Simmons, Moses Osemwegie, and Steve Ingram must continue to lead the team, and Dan Banko and Ingle Martin must play up to their potential. The rest of the team must step up and play their roles. If everyone executes on offense and is aggressive on defense, the Big Red have a chance to take the state championship trophy back from Father Ryan.



Coach Ricky Bowers points out to his players that being 6'11" is not really all that freakish

next game, and consequently MLK won by 18 points. Again, the Big Red bounced back in their first home contest against Germantown in which they prevailed in a close game. The team next traveled to Memphis where the Big Red had the chance to play against the best teams in the state. Playing in the Bartlett Stagecoach Shootout, MBA first defeated Memphis Bolton

terminated Irish team led by Enoch Bunch's 16 points and outstanding leadership. The next Tuesday, M.B.A. played University School and cruised to their best offensive output of the season with 85 points in a game in which both teams did not play particularly well. The following week the embarrassment after the Ryan game resurfaced in a game at Brentwood Acad-

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Bowling Wins District, Falls in Region

By Josh Eaves



Halsey Fischer celebrates another strike

It was a Tuesday, but not any ordinary Tuesday. This was the Tuesday that the Big Red bowling squad would get their chance at redemption. After getting a good night's rest the night before, the team got up at 3:30 that morning to get some practice in before school. They each bowled ten games before heading to the free weights. School served as a mental preparation for the upcoming matches. Every member was told to mix bowling in with their classes in some way, whether it was trying to figure out the best way to pick up a split or counting how many pins you had knocked down.

At 3:00 stage two began. The

team shook off all other distraction and gathered around Commander Carr for some group meditation. Commander lead the team with several chants of "Ohm" before erupting into the "B-I-G R-E-D, Bowl Red! Bowl, Red, Bowl!" chant. The team then embarked on the pilgrimage to Melrose lanes. When they arrived, they knew that they were going to a tough time winning considering they had never beaten the #1 or #2 seeds in the regular season. But the team showed some composure as four of the six bowlers had over 500 pin series. That was only part one. Part two consisted of a Baker style format in which each team selects five bowlers and each bowler is to bowl two frames per game through three games. This format is perhaps the most intense situation in any sporting event because



Miller Harris bowls for the Big Red

one person cannot do it all for the team as Glencliff found out when the Big Red came in and swept them in the three games.

On February 26, MBA started phase two on the road to the state tournament. With a win in the region tournament included a victory over the rival Glencliff, MBA earned a #1 seed going into the final stage. But the competition was be tough as MBA played Overton, a team that features three career track bowlers.

The one question remaining is not will we receive letters. It is, Why are we not receiving letters? The MBA bowling team has earned the respect of the other teams in the league as well as gaining city recognition. The league has a state governing body in the Tennessee Interscholastic Bowling Commission, or the TIBC as we call it. The bowling team even held tryouts in the

beginning of the season and yet we are still considered an intramural team. And for those of you who do not know what intramural means, it means that the sport is existing or carried on within an institution. Now last time I checked, there was only one bowling

team at the school and we play other schools so we cannot be considered an intramural team.

If the bowling team does win the state tournament one year, then what will they say, that the MBA intramural



Bowling Team members (top row, l-r) Miller Harris, Charlie Ezzell, Halsey Fischer, Josh Ritter, (bottom row, l-r) Patrick Gibbs, Roddy Story, and Tee Isenhour

Bowling team would like to present the state championship trophy, which we won by beating other varsity bowling teams? This injustice must be stopped before it is too late.

It is not too much to ask to be given a lousy piece of fabric and a free dinner, is it?

Hockey Falls Short Despite Strengths

By Steven Syverud

For the first time since 1867, the gentlemen-scholar-athletes at MBA can body-check, slash, skate, and lose teeth to their hearts' content on an MBA hockey team. After four years of maneuvering, Nashville has a high school hockey league, and MBA's team had the third-best record of the eight teams. Only Centennial and Brentwood High School now rank ahead of the Big Red.

The other six teams are Brentwood High School, Mount Juliet High School, and four Metro All-Star Teams.

The idea for the league came from Robin Walsh, father of Ray Walsh, a freshman at MBA. Coach Ryan Gaston points out that "Robin Walsh did more than anyone in Nashville to get the league started and to gain attention for high school hockey here." The league, in its inaugural sea-

son, was born last year when Robin Walsh met with MBA athletic director James Tillman, MBA Headmaster Brad Gioia, and Coach Gaston to discuss bringing hockey to MBA.

Tillman, Gioia, and Gaston gave their enthusiastic backing, and League play started December 22.

Mr. Gaston first became interested in hockey when he attended semi-pro games in Indianapolis where he grew up. He became friends with several players and "fell in love" with the sport. He has been playing hockey since he was five years old.

Says Mr. Gaston: "The boys have shown great ability and a lot of heart. I am surprised by the strength of the team and the individual efforts."

The Big Red icers are led by Will Bruce, who led the new league in points. Bruce is part of a Southeastern elite team that traveled to the Czech Republic recently to compete.

Mr. Gaston describes Bruce as "one of the strongest centers in the Southeast."

Mr. Gaston is also proud of the discipline and restraint his team has shown in staying out of hockey's trademark brawls. Due to MBA's short roster, which includes only 16 players, the Big Red can't afford to lose players to ejections.

Also impressive this season have been the performance of James Day and Dylan Richey, who are in the eighth grade but playing on the high school team. Richey has shown playmaking abilities from his left wing position. Day, despite at 125 pounds being thirty pounds lighter than most everyone else in the league, has spent as much time on the ice as any other defenseman.

MBA also has a duo of dependable goalies in Will Fuqua and Michael Wennerlund.

Says Gaston, "They are very

good at what they do."

The other members of the inaugural Big Red team are: Gavin Richey, Hunter Huston, William Floyd, Aaron Davis, Tucker Robinson, Raymond Walsh, Joseph Overton, Brandon Gruber, Will Stringfellow, Andrew Thomison, and James Pace.

Though games were played at the Centennial Sportsplex starting as late as 9:00, there has been ample turnout of parents and fans.

Coach Gaston welcomed everyone for the playoffs, which started on March 2, as he reported that the team was pulling it together and peaking at the right time.

This year, however, it wasn't in the stars. After previously beating Brentwood High in overtime, the Big Red hockey team fell to them 3-1 to end the season.

But this season is only the beginning.

Teachers Flaunt Their Fashion Sense

Deke Shearon counts down the top eight best-dressed teachers on MBA's faculty

By Deke Shearon

1. Dr. Wayne Batten: To find the true fashion ninja here at MBA, one must go old-school. The fedora, the



sweaters, the trench coats, the understated ties, and even scarves, it all works to

secure his position as the fashion king. The Good Doctor demonstrates that what worked in the past can work in the present.

2. Dr. Victoria Lancelotta: The new breakout from the English Department and the sole female representative on this list, Dr.



Lancelotta is the most hip looking teacher at MBA, a place where having exams after Christmas and Sam Davis are still considered hip. The long coat,

the dark-rimmed glasses, the multiple shades of black, are all almost too much for MBA. She's working the Neve Campbell-in-*The Craft*/Wild Things mojo, and coming out unscathed, which is admirable.

3. Dr. Cal Fuller: The Ph.D.s own the



Fuller is Beck.

4. Mr. Dan Herring: I would imagine this man has a summer seminar on



how to roll up shirt sleeves. The reading glasses, black dress shirts, and the new goatee all come together to form a cohesive fashion unit. It was a long, hard road judging from the 1999 yearbook, but Dan finally found fashion.

5. Dr. John Griffith: Oxford-chic is the word to describe the most European-looking representative on this list.

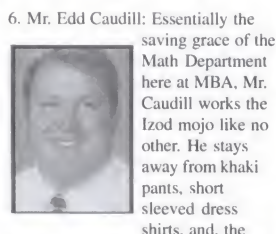
(You know when that man drapes

the top three spots on the list. I have seen this man wear glasses that match his outfit for the day. Have you ever seen his socks? If MBA is the VH1 Fashion Awards, Cal



the briefcase over his back, he knows he's looking good.)

If MBA is the VH1 Fashion Awards, this man is Liam Gallagher.



6. Mr. Edd Caudill: Essentially the saving grace of the Math Department here at MBA, Mr. Caudill works the Izod mojo like no other. He stays away from khaki pants, short sleeved dress shirts, and, the

7. Mr. Jason Callen: This man deserves props for wearing clothes nice enough to convince everyone that yes, he does work here, yes, it is okay to let him in the faculty lounge, and to keep junior schoolers from beating him up and stealing his lunch money.



8. Mr. Robert Pruitt: The sixties ties and blue pants get the man on here.

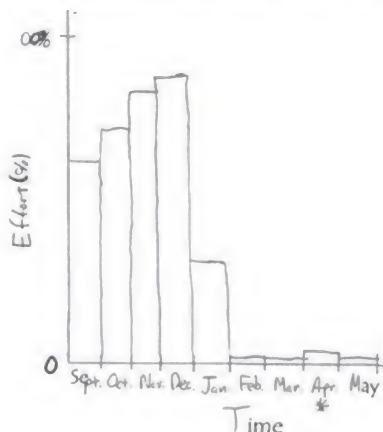



Nice facial hair too. But wearing your son's letter jacket is a little bit of a fashion faux-pas.

Comics by Andrew Frazer

Graph of Senior Effort

*possible error in month of April





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Band Bash Features Three Great Acts



Midnight at the Kappa Sig, featuring (l-r) Nathan Mulherin, John Voigt, Steven Warren, and Judson Mulherin

By Jamie Ranson

The annual MBA Band Bash took place on the evening of Saturday, February 26. Three bands were in attendance: Midnight at the Kappa Sig, Whytehog, and Hobart's Angels.

Midnight at the Kappa Sig, took the stage first, and included vocalist and guitarist John Voigt, guitarist Steven Warren, bassist Nathan Mulherin, and drummer Judson Mulherin. They performed a largely classic rock mix, including three Jimi Hendrix songs, "Johnny B. Goode" by the immortal Chuck Berry, "Sweet Jane" by Lou Reed, and perhaps

the most famous anthem of rock, Led Zeppelin's "Stairway To Heaven." Midnight also threw in some more recent tunes with Metallica's "Enter Sand-



Whytehog (l-r): Tucker Robinson, Jake Nemer, and Jonathan Batchelor

Whytehog, featuring vocalist and bassist Jonathan Batchelor, vocalist and guitarist Tucker Robinson, and drummer Jake Nemer. This band, which prefers not to be characterized as playing any specific "type" of music, split their song list between covers and original compositions.

In addition to covering Blink-182's "I'm Sorry," NOFX's "Lino-leum," and The Dead Milkmen's "Dean's Dream," they played such personally written songs as "Rad," "Not Insane," "Jolt Cola," and "Jesse's In France," a tribute to good friend Jesse Bull and his trip to France. Whytehog's performance featured a floating video camera, and a very wild MBA Mosh Pit.

Hobart's Angels was the third and final band of that night, and included: lead guitarist John "Hobart" Humbracht; Cal Alexander, who pro-

vided vocals, rhythm guitar, and keyboards; bassist Adam Brooks; and drummer Judson Mulherin. Hobart's Angels also featured Katie Howell as a guest backup vocalist. Their eclectic set included Ozzy Osborne's "Crazy Train," Faith No More's "Epic," Tool's "Sober," Blur's "Song 2," Rick Springfield's "Jesse's Girl," Blue Oyster Cult's "Don't Fear the Reaper," and The Buggles' "Video Killed The Radio Star."

The overall reaction to these three bands was a good one, although the crowd was a great deal smaller than many had expected. The main problem run into was a technical one, with the stage lights flickering on and off sporadically throughout the concert. Fortunately, the sound remained on and

Continued on page 12

Ballyhoo a Hit

By Jamie Ranson

This play, which recently won a Tony award for Best Play, ran at Harpeth Hall on the weekend of March 3-5.

The play is set in Atlanta in 1939, and the characters include a disoriented Jewish family and two friends. The action of the play centers around Ballyhoo, which is a festival and a dance for Jews from all over the South.

Lala Levy, played by Liz Edwards, is a fluttery, self-conscious, and under-achieving young lady who wants to go to Ballyhoo more than anything, except perhaps meeting Clark Gable, the star of the just-premiered *Gone With The Wind*.

Her cousin, Sunny Freitag played by Audrey Ball, is a college student who cares next to nothing about Ballyhoo and is more concerned about her own edification.

When Lala and Sunny's uncle, Adolf Freitag, played by John Humbracht, brings home his co-worker Joe Farkas, a New Yorker and a faithful Eastern European Jew, played by John Voigt, for dinner, Lala fawns on him. She wants him to Farkas to take her to Ballyhoo so much that her fawning repulses him.

Later, on a train, Joe and Sunny meet and immediately hit it off, agreeing to go to Ballyhoo together. Meanwhile, two sisters, Lala's mother Beulah, played by Kimberly McKinney, and Sunny's mother Reba,

played by Kristina Hoge, are acting out a rivalry that has gone on since childhood and continues through the lives of their daughters. Lala, at her mother's urging, calls a friend from Louisiana, Peachy Weil, played by Joe Marianelli, a great jokester, who agrees to come to Atlanta and take Lala to Ballyhoo.

When Joe and Sunny, already beginning to fall in love, go to Ballyhoo with Lala and Peachy, Peachy tells Joe how Eastern European Jews are usually not welcome at the club where the dance is being held. Joe gets mad and walks out. Peachy, later that evening, asks Lala to marry him. Sunny and Joe quarrel, but again meet on a train and realize their love for each other. The play thus has a happy ending.

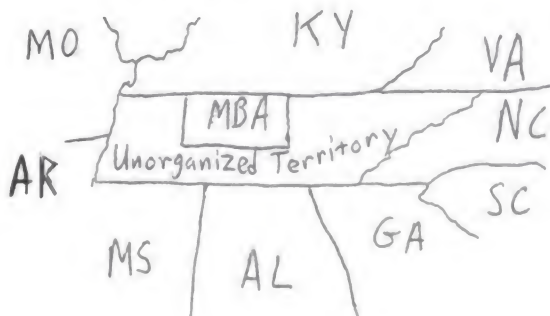
The Last Night of Ballyhoo was one of the funniest plays I have ever seen, as well as one of the only ones that dealt with issues of religious differences while still being funny. Lala's flutters, Adolf's witticisms, Boo and Reba's snapping comebacks and retorts to each other, and Peachy's jokes and constant sayings of "What do you think?" when asked a yes-or-no question all kept the audience rolling in the aisles.

The more serious acting, especially from Joe and Sunny, was also very well done.

I definitely call *Ballyhoo* a success, and would see it many times again, if given the chance.

Comics by Andrew Frazer

Map of Tennessee: 2005



12 Entertainment

Cogito Ergo Vroom

By Taylor Caillet Sutherland

Brad McDowell's 1989 Chrysler Le Baron Coupe

Vehicle Type

2-door GT Cruiser

Price as tested: \$10,000

Price and option breakdown

Base 1989 Le Baron- \$2500, Sun Spotted Aged Paint-\$1000, Factory Sound System with Equalizer- \$1500, Highly Advanced Fuel Mileage Indicator-\$2000, Spring Enhanced "Bouncing" Speedometer- \$2000, That "Smell"- \$1000

TS Test Results

Zero to 60- 8.25 sec

to 100- Hmimm. I wouldn't recommend it

Street Start 5-60- 9 sec

Handling

The best thing about the handling in "the Bear" is that it has power steering. While this is an option standard on every modern vehicle, the Le Baron difference is that the power steering pump is broken. That means turning at low speeds just plain hurts and that the steering wheel has that sort of "unconnected" feel to it. Also of note is that 85% of the Le Barons manufactured were of the convertible variety. Some might say that means that Brad's is simply a convertible with a hard top. To such critics I would say, "You are absolutely right!"

Test Drive Summary

As you step up to this vintage GT car, flashes of the classic GT40, the Jaguar E-type, and not to mention the Ferrari GT cars of the late sixties dart through your mind. "The Bear," as Brad affectionately refers to it, is nothing short of remarkable. From the long, sexy body lines to the enormous back window, from the fake wood interior to the back seat ash trays, this classic hot rod screams FUN!

As you open the door, you notice that the McDowells opted for the racing

version, as electric window motors would add dangerous grams of weight. The next thing you notice is "that smell." (You will notice this was listed in the options section above.) The "smell" is sort of a mildewy gross watery funky smell. It brings back memories of "that smell" that lingers in the bottom of a trunk after a few weeks at Boy Scout camp.

Speaking of trunks, "the Bear" also has another option no longer common on cars - the interior trunk release is a decoy. The trunk can only be opened with the key. This allows you to leave the cockpit unlocked while keeping valuables in the trunk. As you acquaint yourself with the interior, you notice the level of quality control Chrysler exercised during the late eighties. Not so high as you might suppose.

At the turn of the key this bad boy roars to life and the speedometer bounces to life. (When I say bounces I literally mean bounces. Below about forty there is no way to no exactly how fast you are going. Much like your TI-83, it will give you a nifty range of values though.) As you roll out of the lot, you definitely note the "power steering" and the power of the Detroit V-6. You also will note that the odometer does not seem to be moving. That is because Brad's Le Baron is the only one ever to cross the self-destruct mileage point of 108,612.5, thus making it a definitive member of a dying breed. Rolling down the street, you notice that the "honeys" really dig this "g-ride" despite the fact that the speakers in the "pit" have not worked since early 1989.

You also will enjoy playing the game of trying to get the fuel mileage estimator to reach 99 when coasting down a big hill. Basically, this funship has more bells and whistles than many modern cruisers.

On a bit of a sad note, I think you, the reader, should be made aware that the Le Baron is only going to be on the road until March 1. On that date Brad's insurance, having been adversely affected by a wreck with an MBA faculty member and a rendezvous with one of Metro's finest, will be no more, and "the Bear" will take a place of prominence in front of Brad's house.

Thus, enjoy this classic while you can, and remember even though it may be unlocked, anything worth stealing will be in the trunk.

Midnight at KΣ, Whytehog, and Hobart's Angels Jam at MBA

each band performed with great enthusiasm.

And now, the opinions (junior, sophomore, freshman, and author):

Midnight At The Kappa Sig

Junior: "They had a good variety and played very well despite the tech problems. John had a little trouble singing directly into the mike. Steven's guitar work was amazing."

Sophomore: "I thought they were not going to be any good, but they surprised me and they really were great."

Freshman: "They hit nearly all of the chords, and the singing was good as well. I liked this band."

Author: Although there were a few minor screw-ups and tech was a constant problem, Steven's guitar led Midnight to a very successful performance. The group played well together, especially on "Johnny B. Goode." Three and a half stars (out of five).

Whytehog

J: "This band was awesome on both original and covered tracks. Tucker's



Hobart's Angels (l-r): Cal Alexander, John Humbracht, Judson Mulherin and (not in the picture) Adam Brooks

guitar skills are uncanny." **S:** "A great band, especially for crazy people."

F: "Loud and enthusiastically spirited, an awesome band."

A: I could tell this band was having a lot of fun onstage, and they were all

very instrumentally talented. Whytehog had the fewest technical problems of the three bands, a fact they took great advantage of. I had a great time watching this band and their incredible crowd response. Four and a half stars.

Hobart's Angels

J: "This band was the greatest!"

S: "They were pretty good, especially Cal's guitar. They dealt well with the tech problems."

F: "Overall they did well, especially on "Sober". Adam Brooks was really great!"

A: Of the three bands, this one had the most problems with tech, but they responded very well and played on. The fact that they also were the only one with a female singer added some much-enjoyed variety. They seemed to have less stage experience than the other two bands, but they also appeared to have a lot of fun onstage, and the crowd liked them a lot. Three stars.

(Author's Note: The profound lack of seniors at the Band Bash is the reason for the lack of Senior Opinions in this article.)

In summary, each band played very well, and what crowd there was seemed to enjoy itself greatly. I would definitely call this event a success.